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The above prices are quoted fob plant, ready for shipment in purchasers' own tank cars.

**PUSH DEVELOPMENT OF SILICONES -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 20 Jan 51**

The Heyden Chemical Factory in Radebeul-Dresden, which belongs to the WB Alcid Federation, started silicone research before the war and had developed a suitable production technique at the same time as the General Electric Company of Schenectady, N.Y.

Silicones, which may be produced to exhibit any degree of density, are considerably more heat-resistant and waterproof than the plastics, lacquers, lubricating oils, putty, and synthetic rubber currently on the market. The extraordinary electrical insulating properties of silicones are especially noteworthy. Research experiments in Germany were retarded by postwar events; however, by 1942 Dr Richard Mueller had developed the direct synthesis method based on preliminary work dating back to 1934.

New research findings have led to the extensive use of silicone compounds. Silicones developed in Germany are used in the manufacture of electrical insulating materials, for protective and outside coatings, and in the manufacture of pressed materials which show extraordinarily high density with a silicone content of only 20 percent. Oils, fats, and various types of rubber can be produced from this group of materials. Certain silicones are also suitable for the manufacture of floating soaps, for preserving butter and dried milk, as a substitute for white lampblack in the rubber industry, and for other uses.

**NITROGEN PLANT EXPANDS -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 17 Jan 51**

A new phosphorus furnace is being constructed at the Piesteritz Nitrogen Plant. It is hoped that operation of this furnace will make it possible for the German Democratic Republic to meet its 1951 phosphorus requirements, and to export phosphoric acid.

Construction of a carbide furnace is planned for 1952. The two new installations will enable the plant to increase its production by 30 percent, as compared with 1950.

**DEVELOP WATER PURIFICATION AGENT -- Berlin Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 9 Dec 50**

Decarbolith, a purifying agent for drinking and industrial water has been developed by the Schwarzheide Synthetic Works and is produced entirely from indigenous materials. Dolomite deposits, discovered near Gera, supply the principal component of decarbolith. The product is said to compare favorably in every respect with the purifying agents in use heretofore.

**BANS CERTAIN PLASTIC ARTICLES -- Berlin Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 9 Dec 50**

The German Democratic Republic has placed a ban on articles made of plastic requiring a softening agent having an ortho-tricresyl-phosphate content of more than 6 percent. This ban applies also to essential items used by industrial and commercial food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic enterprises. It does not apply to essential items which are utilized solely by industrial and commercial establishments other than the ones mentioned above. Surgical drains, pessaries, wrappings for bandages, and adhesive tape, jar rings, plugs, sweatbands for hats, bottle nipples, and toys (except rubber balls) may not be made from plastics containing ortho-tricresyl-phosphate.

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Stoppers, tubes, and casings made of the above-mentioned type of plastic may not be used for food, drug, and cosmetic articles. Manufacturers of softeners must indicate clearly, on all containers, the percentage of ortho-tricresyl-phosphate content. Plastic products or semifinished plastic items whose ortho-tricresyl-phosphate content exceeds 6 percent must bear labels or other indications of restrictions on use. These stipulations also apply to imported products.

PRODUCE IGELITE FOILS -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 20 Dec 50

The Ruba Synthetic Rolling Mill (a trusteeship) in Berlin supplies 3,000 kilograms per day of igelite foils in various colors and finishes to 30 processing plants. The foils are made into handbags, tablecloths, and coats. A new calender is to be put in operation early in 1951 and at that time it is planned to start the production of igelite floor coverings, combs, and other consumers' goods. The plant operates two rolling mills at present.

EXPAND BITTERFELD ELECTROCHEMICAL COMBINE -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 3 Jan 51

The electrochemical combine at Bitterfeld is operating a new caustic soda installation. A new calender has been added to the plastic processing shop.

PRODUCES PLASTIC BICYCLE SEATS -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 13 Jan 51

Production of new-type bicycle seats, stamped out of plastic, has begun at the people-owned Bitterfeld Rubber Stamping Works.

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